

July 14, 2025
By email

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Stewart and Councilmembers:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the public hearing for **Bill 24-25 Transportation Demand Management – Repeal** on July 15. As I stated that day, Suburban Hospital supports the repeal of the law requiring Transportation Demand Management agreements.

Since 1943, Suburban has been located on the same campus on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda and today employs approximately 1500 full- and part-time workers at this site. Even though this location is a mile away from the Bethesda Central Business District, the hospital was required to execute one of these agreements in 2015 as construction was getting underway for a new parking structure and addition to the hospital.

This agreement compels Suburban Hospital, in perpetuity, to:

- Designate an employee as a transportation benefits coordinator to promote commuting alternatives to employees;
- Host the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) or their contractors for marketing and promotional activities;
- Annually survey our employees about their transportation and commuting practices;
- Provide a shuttle for employees between the campus and the Bethesda Metro station;
- Provide two real-time transit information boards at our facility ;
- Provide public transit subsidies to employees on request;
- Provide redundant bicycle infrastructure on-campus, including a secure bike cage in the garage, bike lockers on our property and bicycle racks near the north building;
- Provide shower facilities for employees who bike or walk to work; and
- File an annual report to the MCDOT.

None of these requirements enhance the delivery of healthcare to the community which is our reason for being.

Many of them are also not of interest to our employees. The shuttle bus, for instance, duplicates the route for Ride-On 47 which is now free and runs more frequently than the shuttle. And those 10 bike lockers are unsightly, impede a pedestrian walkway and have NEVER been requested for use.

Negotiating the agreement took time away from other important project planning activities and generated legal expenses. Satisfying the requirements continue to take time and money away from other activities that are central to our mission.

Nullifying the agreement would provide more flexibility to Suburban to operate the hospital to satisfy the medical needs of the community and the opportunity for Suburban to offer benefits and amenities to our employees that they need and request.

On behalf of Suburban Hospital, I urge you to vote yes on Bill 24-25. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Ford Weber", with a stylized, flowing script.

Leslie Ford Weber
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine

cc: Dr. LeighAnn Sidone, President, Suburban Hospital